

Alton Highway Policies and Regulations

Section 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Except as may be otherwise noted below, the definition pertaining to any word contained in these policies and regulations shall refer to the manner in which it is described by applicable Titles of the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated.

3.2 In the event no definition is found in the RSA's or if there are conflicting meanings or if a definition is vague and ambiguous, the Selectmen shall decide as to a word's meaning and said definition shall be incorporated into these policies and regulations. The Selectmen shall consult a recent edition of a modern American-English dictionary whenever called upon to exercise the authority granted under this Section.

3.3 The following words are hereby defined:

- (a) AASHTO shall refer to the criteria as set forth in the most recent edition of the design manual published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Organizations.
- (b) BRIDGE shall be defined as a man-made object used to traverse a ditch, water course or natural barrier, to include culverts and any elevated means of crossing over a highway.
- (c) CENTERLINE shall be defined as the middle of a traveled way.
- (d) CONSTRUCTION PROJECT shall be defined as any activity which requires the issuance of a permit under the Building Regulations of the Town or construction of a private road.
- (e) DRIVEWAY shall be defined as any path of access used by motor vehicles to gain entry upon private property from a public right-of-way. This includes parking pads, private roads and any other means of access to public or private property from a public highway.
- (f) EXCAVATION shall be defined as any form of digging [operation. by](#) which material is removed and/or relocated.
- (g) HEAVY EQUIPMENT shall be defined as any motor vehicle or trailer unit which exceeds a gross weight of six tons (twelve thousand pounds).

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- (h) HIGHWAY shall be defined to include the words street, road, avenue, or any other type of nomenclature which refers to a public right-of-way. For the purposes of these policies and regulations, all of the terms referenced in this Section shall be deemed to be synonymous
- (i) INSUFFICIENCY shall mean a safety hazard which is not reasonably discoverable or reasonably avoidable by a person who is traveling upon a Town highway or bridge at a rate of speed which does not exceed the maximum limit and in a manner which is reasonable and prudent as determined by prevailing conditions such as weather, visibility or knowledge of road conditions and potential hazards.
- (j) MONETARY DAMAGES may also be defined as a cash value which is placed upon a previously established, property right to which a land owner can document a legal entitlement, upon which said use has been lost or diminished as the result of actions taken by a Town Official under the provisions of these policies and regulations.
- (k) NUISANCE shall be defined as an unpleasant, annoying or obnoxious activity, whereby a common sense of decency, as determined by a Town Official, depreciates to a noticeable extent such that the general public is likely to be adversely affected.
- (I) PHYSICAL DAMAGES may be defined as any disturbance of shoulders, ditches, embankments, road surface, or the failure to return Town property to a condition which previously existed as determined by the Highway Agent.
- (m) PUBLIC HEARING shall be defined as the process by which the Selectmen receive oral statements and written testimony from any person who wishes to express an opinion or statement of fact.
- (n) RIGHT-OF-WAY shall be defined as the total area of a highway which encompasses all of the land over which the Town has a legal interest. through instruments of deed, easement, statutorily prescribed claims or the result of judicial proceedings which have jurisdiction.
- (o) SIDEWALK shall be defined as a path used primarily for pedestrian travel which is located within a right-of-way.

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- (p) TOWN OFFICIAL shall be defined as any person acting in an authorized capacity on behalf of the Town.
- (q) TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION shall be defined as a process whereby a Town Official authorizes or conducts a study of road conditions and/or traffic patterns for the purposes of determining any highway regulation or other highway safety requirements.
- (r) TRAILER shall be defined as any vehicle which is pulled behind a motor vehicle or is self-propelled and used or designed for the purpose of transporting cargo.
- (s) TRAVELED WAY shall be defined as the portion of a right-of-way used by custom, tradition or design primarily for travel by vehicles.
- (t) WINTER ROAD shall be defined as a public right-of-way which shall be open and maintained by the Town from November 15th through April 1st for plowing and sanding only.